

SIMMONS, JOHN WILSON

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SIMMONS, JOHN WILSON, born in Tennessee about 1811; his father was a native of North Carolina and his mother of Tennessee; married, Mary _____ (1806-1890), a native of Tennessee whose parents were born in Virginia; children, Thomas Wilson, John Franklin, Margaret or Maggie (Mrs. _____ Colquette).

He was raised on a farm but for a time followed piloting on the Tennessee River, emigrated to Northern Arkansas and farmed there, 1836-43; went to Missouri where he was employed as a millwright for 3 years; moved to Denton County, Texas, where he became a cabinet maker, 1846-1863; moved to Kansas and then came to Arizona via New Mexico, arriving at Prescott, September 17, 1864, locating on a farm in Miller Valley.

Elected from Yavapai County to the 3d and 4th Territorial Councils, 1866-1867; listed, U. S. Census, 1870, age 60, occupation - Farmer; the following references to him appeared in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

August 31, 1877 - - - Our old friend, J. W. Simmons, who settled on his valuable place in 1864, has always, until this season, raised fair crops. In the early part of the summer his chances for a large yield this year were flattering. But the continued dry spell blasted these chances, still Mr. Simmons is not one who yields to disappointment or losses of this nature and we expect to see his waving fields growing under the weight of a large yield next year.

February 1, 1878 - - - J. W. Simmons, Sr. called upon us this morning. He is preparing his ranch for the coming season, and although he has living water to irrigate with, it cannot be raised to a sufficient height to suit his purposes without artificial means, and he

thinks of putting in a Holladay wind-mill to throw the water up over his garden. Mrs. S., his estimable lady, has lived within two miles of Prescott for 14 years and has never visited town but once during that time.

The Prescott Courier also made mention of him:

June 24, 1882 - - - Friends of J. W. Simmons will be glad to learn that his health is better. He, Mrs. Simmons, and Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, every one of whom have reached the age of 80 or more, live within one mile of Prescott and have lived there since '64.

August 24, 1886 - - - When in 1864 J. W. Simmons and Sam Miller located claims in Miller valley, they, of course, drew lines, but agreed to change them to conform to the survey, which was made some years ago. Sam's line took in some 13 acres of Mr. Simmons' place and the old gentleman, a short time ago, deeded the land and a fine spring to Sam.

The Prescott Journal-Miner of April 2, 1887, reported that:

J. W. Simmons and wife, an aged couple who came to the Territory in 1864 and who reside a short distance from town, came in Sunday and went down to take a look at the railroad and locomotive for the first time. They refused a short ride down the tracks.

Died at his home in Miller Valley, near Prescott, A.T.,
May 7, 1888, aged 77; buried, Simmons Cemetery, in Miller Valley.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Kelly, G.H. - Legislative History, Arizona, 1926, pp. 24, 33.
3d and 4th Arizona Legislative Assemblies Journals, 1866, 1867.
Farish, T.E. - History of Arizona, Vol. 3, p.211, Vol.4, p. 165,
vol. 5, p. 1.
Fish, J. - History of Arizona Manuscript, p. 375.
The Great Register of Yavapai County - 1876, 1882, 1884.
The Arizona Miner, Prescott, October 27, 1866, 1:1; August 31, 1877,
3:3; February 1, 1878, 3:1.
The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, January 19, 1:4, April 20, 3:2,
October 12, 3:1, and October 26, 1878, 1:5.

SIMMONS, JOHN WILSON

- 3 -

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (continued)

The Prescott Courier, June 24, 1882, 4:1; August 24, 1886, 3:1;
May 8, 1888, 4:2 (obituary); December 22, 1890, 4:2
(death of wife)
The Journal-Miner Prescott, April 2, 1887, 3:2.